minerals and grant mineral concessions as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under. The said Act and Rules are available on the website of the Ministry of Mines (*www.mines.nic.in*)

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, as per the provision of the said Act, the State Government may give preference to an applicant in grant of mineral concession on the basis of his special knowledge or experience in mining operations, his financial resources, investment proposed in mining operations, technical capability and end use of minerals.

Allotment of mining blocks to industries

1593. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any established procedure for allotment of mining blocks of different kinds to industries;

(b) if so, whether there is any established policy for a priority based allotment to PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concessions as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under. As per the provisions of the said Act, the State Government may grant mineral concession to an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, which includes private as well as Public Sector Companies. The State Government may give preference to an applicant in grant of mineral concession on the basis of his special knowledge or experience in mining operations, his financial resources, investment proposed in mining operations, technical capability and end use of minerals. Apart from this, mineral bearing areas can be reserved in favour of Central/State Public Sector' companies for undertaking prospecting or mining operations.

Mineral deposits at Dausa

†1594. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a potential deposit of 43,700 tonne of copper and large quantity of gold in the rocks at Dausa in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any official survey has been conducted by the experts in this regard;

(c) if so, the estimates thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.